

It's been ten years since the boys of NFG released their self-titled album. How much has changed for you guys since then?

Oh man, we were babies back then - we've grown up so much! It's crazy to think that's how long ago that album came out. It makes me feel really old but, at the same time, I'm still really young.

The sound of your latest album, *Not Without a Fight*, brought back those pop punk roots from years before in a very mature way. What was the focus for this record? The focus for this record was just to be relaxed and do whatever we wanted to. This was our first record with Epitaph, the first record not being with a major record label, the first record where we didn't feel any pressure at all to write any kind of songs that we didn't feel like writing. It was really cool because we got to work with Mark Hoppus from Blink 182. He produced the record which made the whole recording environment really relaxed. We spent six weeks writing the record.

How do you feel *Not Without a Fight* has been received by the fans since its release? Every tour that we have done for it has been great! Everyone has been singing along to all the words so I really can't complain about it at all. We're really excited that we still get to be a band and there's still a lot of people that like our band.

What is the recipe for writing and recording a classic New Found Glory song?

Well as long as Chad (Gilbert, guitarist) writes the right music then it's really easy for me to write the right melodies and lyrics. Right now I'm in the process of writing the



The rise and success of the pop-punk era in the mid-90s saw bands such as Blink 182, MXPX and Unwritten Law make waves up and down the So-Cal punk scene. Another band to add to that impressive compilation are the boys from Florida — NEW FOUND GLORY. With a new record and a tour down under on the way, these guys aren't ready to give up without a fight. SEAN FRAZER speaks to guitarist, STEVE KLEIN.

new New Found Glory record that we're going to start recording in January. Chad will write the guitar riffs and then he'll send them to me. From there we will go on iChat where I will send him my ideas, constantly working back and fourth. It's not really an awesome song until Jordan (Pundik, vocalist) sings it though. We all work together and that's what makes it special. We're a band that is always writing songs, so we would've had something like 15 songs before we even headed into the studio to record *Not*

Without a Fight. Ever since we started the band we've always had the same kind of writing routine where we write the music first, do some lyrics and then begin to record demos.

You say you guys are recording in January: when will we get a sneak peak at the new material?

Hopefully we'll have something out by March which will more than likely be the new single right after or just before we play the Soundwave Festival.

Will there be a change in direction for this new album?

To me right now, it's only in the early stages, but it sounds a lot more pop-punk. It sounds very old school New Found Glory as opposed to *Coming Home* or the *Not Without a Fight* albums, it's just straight forward and a lot more poppier. I think it's going to be an awesome summer record, it's going to be really catchy, we'll be working really hard on it to make it sound great for the fans.

You guys have spent much of your late teens and twenties on the road. What is life on the road with New Found Glory like?

It's crazy. You wake up, sound check, do the media and press thing, play the show, hang out with the other bands, try to find a place to eat... which is why we are super stoked to be heading back to Australia, you guys have Nando's there, that place is the bomb!

Some bands choose to avoid the festival scene, though you guys have played your fair share of them. How do you boys feel toward the festival vibe?

I think festivals are awesome! It brings together a bunch of bands that may or may not have played together ever. The first time we played Soundwave we played with Alice in Chains and Nine Inch Nails, this time it's with Iron Maiden and a whole crazy line-up — it's incredible!

New Found Glory play Soundwave on Saturday February 26, Brisbane's RNA Showgrounds, and Sunday, February 27, at Sydney's Eastern Creek Raceway. Not Without a Fight is out now through Epitaph.

So you guys must be pretty stoked to finally have *Post Paradise* on the shelves. Why so long between drinks since the last EP?

Yeah, it kind of has been a long time coming so we're especially happy to have it out there. But I guess we spent a few months writing, jamming and developing our sound further. We recorded a few demos and tried a few studio recordings but eventually we said "what if we took the time to do it ourselves?" So, then the process became a little like trial and error, but we got there in the end.

What effect do you think recording *Post Paradise* yourselves had on the finished product?

I think it had a big effect. What we found in the studio was that we were always watching the clock which put a bit of pressure on us. We really wanted to explore different sounds and structures on the album so, in the end, doing it in the studio didn't work for us.

Was it a conscious decision going in to the recording to produce a much more layered album?

Yeah, it was. We wanted the album to have a real percussive and rhythmic feel to it — and for it to be kind of 'open season' on ideas and stuff. Also, as we got more proficient at recording, it kind of broke down the barriers of 'no we can't' which really helped a lot.

What's your favourite song on *Post Paradise* at the moment and why?

I think I would have to say track eight which is called 'Conga'. It was the first song where we felt that we had really nailed the feeling of what we were trying to achieve with the whole album — that rhythmic and percussive thing. It's also probably the most ambitious



HOLIDAY IN PARADISE

It's been almost two years since we've had a new offering from Sydney posters, THE HOLIDAYS. However, instead of resting on their laurels, the four-piece have been busy consolidating their sound for the breezy and multi-layered debut effort, *Post Paradise*. STEPHEN BISSET chatted to singer, SIMON JONES, ahead of the album's release.

and detailed song we've written so far.

Mondays — those guys are phenomenal.

What kind of stuff was influencing you in the writing of *Post Paradise*?

We were getting really into the loose, percussive and jammy feel of stuff like Fela Kuti. A lot of Talking Heads stuff was a big influence as well — you know how they have those weird little guitar riffs that repeat? Also, the groove of bands like The Happy

What's your idea of post paradise?

I guess what I'm trying to say with the title is that paradise is a kind of transitive state — you know the old saying 'the grass is always greener on the other side.' It's kind of saying that when you finally achieve what you consider to be your idea of paradise, what then? Where do you go from there?

Any last words or vicious rumours you'd like to start about yourselves?

Well, we did a tour with Bluejuice and they tried to start a rumour that we were really into fighting. That's just blatantly untrue. None of us can fight to save ourselves.

The Holidays play the New Beginnings festival, January 15-16, at Lake Macquarie. Post Paradise is out now through Liberation.

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